

THE METER

Serving the Tennessee State University community since 1950

NASHVILLE, TENN.

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VOLUME 60, ISSUE 3



ON THE PROWL

Tigers take a tumble in season opener • Pg. 13

Students fume over campus housing

By Christopher Patterson & Ashleigh Taylor

STAFF REPORTER & NEWS EDITOR

Latisha Hurt remains frustrated with TSU's Office of Residence Life, although classes have been in session since Aug. 31.

Like Hurt, other angry students bundle together in the small lobby of the office's FPCC suite, waiting to be properly assigned to a residence center on campus.

"I have been up here three times and (my problem) still has not been resolved," said Hurt, a junior dental hygiene major from Detroit. "I came at 9:30 a.m. and (two hours later) I still have not been seen."

Hurt said she was assigned to Merl B. Eppse Hall. However, during the spring 2009 semester she requested to live in the Ford Residential Apartment Complex.

She also said earlier in the week Residence Life officials confirmed her stay in Ford.

"This is very unprofessional," Hurt said. "They need to have more staff to help because its only (Jeanette Smith) and she can not do

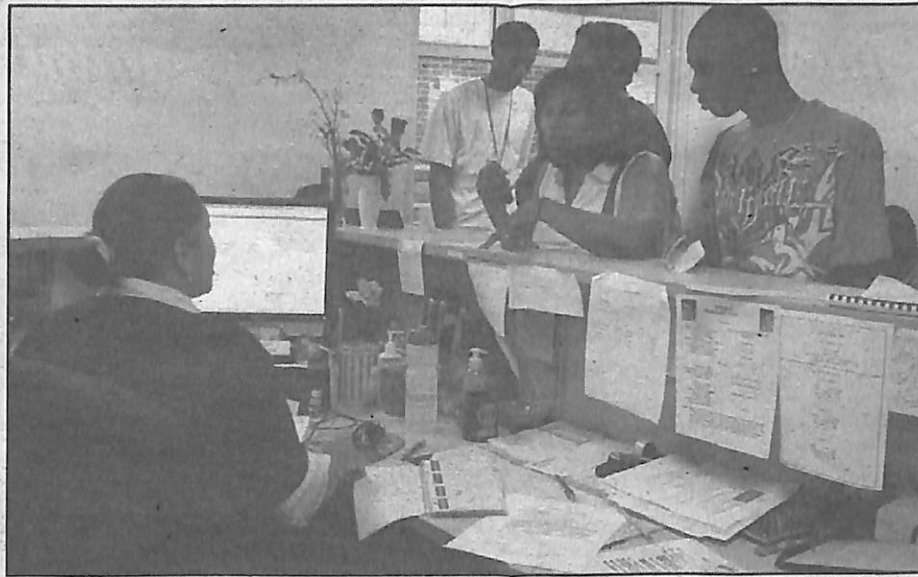


PHOTO BY FAITH FOXX/THE METER

Students and parents discuss their on-campus housing issues with Jeanette Smith in the Department of Residence Life.

it all herself."

Smith, administrative assistant for Residence Life, said she typically deals with the day-to-day questions and concerns of students.

Smith said many students call frequently throughout the day and many calls come through at the same time, which makes it difficult

for all calls to be received.

Frustrated students are not accurate when pointing blame, she suggested.

"More than likely if a student does not have a housing assignment, they are at fault, not residence life," Smith said. "Returning students had plenty of time to apply and

pay housing fees."

Last semester, students were required to pay a \$100 housing fee, which reserved their spot for the fall semester.

In previous years, students did not pay a reservation fee prior to the start of each school year, and all housing fees were included with room and board prices.

"I think it was a bunch of bull," said junior accounting major Jarvis Tillman from Marietta, Ga. "TSU should stop with the shenanigans."

Low enrollment and financial strain for the university last fall were to blame for the new housing mandates. Students were also forced to fully register for classes before requesting a room.

Failure to pay reservation fees placed several room assignments in limbo throughout the summer. Procrastination, on students' part, prevented assignments being made.

This school year brought along even more difficulties for the residence centers. TSU accepted nearly 4,500 new students for the fall semester.

There are as many as 2,500 new

See "Everyone" on page 4

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS - CALENDAR

MONDAY

81° 64°
HI LO

Deadline: Book & Impact Application
12 noon FPCC Rm. 209

TUESDAY

82° 65°
HI LO

Freshmen Class Forum & Debate
6 p.m. FPCC Rm. 210

Women's Volleyball vs. UT-Chattanooga
6 p.m. Keah Gymnasium

Distinguished Speaker

1 p.m. FPCC Rm. 210

WEDNESDAY

85° 65°
HI LO

WTST Radio
11 a.m. FPCC Courtyard

Southern Heritage Pep Rally
6 p.m. Amphitheater

Kappa Book Club Mtg.
8 p.m. FPCC Rm. 219

THURSDAY

85° 64°
HI LO

Jazz in the Courtyard

12 noon FPCC Courtyard

AFA Bike-athon Kickoff
9:06 p.m. FPCC Courtyard

FRIDAY

84° 64°
HI LO

SATURDAY

80° 40°
HI LO

Football Game vs. Jackson State University
6 p.m. at Liberty Bowl

SUNDAY

78° 61°
HI LO

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JMC fashion show features alumni

By **Nakeva Williams & Vernatalie Beale**
ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR & CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Spray-painted shirts and jeans, classy dresses, big floppy hats and stilettos bombarded the 64-foot catwalk runway for the first event of the JMC weekend.

Imperial: the Color of Couture was hosted by Flymajor's Robert Higgins and TSU graduate Adrian "AG" Granderson, a radio personality from Nashville's 101.1 The Beat.

The ninth annual fashion show featured four designers, including TSU graduate Tina Stinson and Opry Mills Mall based Agassi.

The designs are targeted for students from high school to college and have existed for 38 years. Outfits from all designers ranged from church attire to causal wear.

The crowd seemed to love Tina Stinson's classy designs that were simple, yet elegant enough to wear to classier events.

"I was extremely happy with Stinson's designs," said Ajaia Spicer,

a senior speech communications and theatre major from Memphis. "To know that a TSU (graduate) has followed their dreams is truly inspiring."

The crowd was also entertained with the smooth jazz by TSU graduate Joe Johnson, a former Aristocrat of Bands member who is now a world renowned saxophone player.

A tribute in dance was also performed by Charlie Dowdy.

"I really enjoyed the dance, it was really inspiring," said freshman nursing major Paige Loggins from

Little Rock, Ark.

Dwight Pope, head cheerleading coach, and main organizer of the show, was a little disappointed with the student participation.

"The student attendance was not where I would have liked for it to be, but the show was still good," said Pope.

Majornette Jefferson, former TSU student and Allure model also helped organize the show.

"The frequent and diligent practices were well worth the outcome of the show," said Jefferson. "I am very pleased."•

Flu symptoms alarm campus and community

By **Kaila Thompson & Eva Pitts**
STAFF REPORTERS

The Tennessee Department of Health has confirmed 247 cases of novel H1N1—a type-A strand of influenza also called swine flu—in the state, so far resulting in only one death. Novel H1N1 is a contagious virus spreading worldwide.

Many students at TSU have begun to exhibit flu-like symptoms. However, none have proven to be H1N1.

"It's that time of the year," said Elizabeth Frazier, head nurse in the Queen Washington Health Center on campus. "People are going back to school with their natural germs so it's going around."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), H1N1 is coined swine flu because of the unique similarity of the flu found in pigs in North America.

The symptoms of H1N1 include fever, sore throat, cough, body aches, headaches, chills, diarrhea, vomiting and fatigue.

Those infected with H1N1 can infect others. The CDC recommends various methods of prevention in being protected from infection.

Frazier said students came in tired, feverish and weak while some complained of body aches, headaches and persistent coughing.



Marque Armstead, a junior arts and theater major from Memphis, went to Queen Washington Wednesday and discovered he had a temperature of 102.5 degrees.

"It started off with a minor cold on Monday and Tuesday it followed with a head and body aches," Armstead said. "I finally gained enough strength Wednesday to come (here)."

Dr. Ivan Davis Sr., director of Student Health Services, says the virus has not shown itself to be lethal as the regular flu virus.

However, it does have the potential to be lethal amongst pregnant women, Davis said.

Davis and the entire staff

encourage all students to wash their hands, use hand sanitizer and avoid anyone with flu like symptoms.

Flu-like symptoms have also been spotted in the athletic department.

Rod Reed, defensive coordinator and assistant football coach from Marshall, Texas, said only a few football players have been sick, but he remains hopeful for the season ahead.

"We had a couple of our guys come down," Reed said. "They've been on bed rest for the past couple of days, but are still expected to play in (upcoming) games."

A list of sick students was sent to Student Affairs, Aramark, Residence Life and health services so that they may provide students with sack lunches in order to ensure proper nutrition.

"The difficulty is this that this thing appears to be peaking way before the shots and immunity will be available," Davis said.

The National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases has developed a H1N1 2009 Monovalent Vaccine for the influenza, but it has not yet been licensed.

The vaccine is expected to be available to the public by mid October and will require two shots three to four weeks apart.

"I think that college students should be one of the target groups that receives the vaccine," said senior health sciences major Lindsey Trice

from Shelbyville, Tenn. "It is still an individual's responsibility in taking safety precautions that will protect them from the virus."

For off campus help students may visit the Lentz Health Department is located at 311 23rd Avenue North.

Their flu clinic will open Oct. 24, and hours of operation will be Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

Flu shots will be available on a walk-in basis for \$10 and the Pneumonia Vaccine is available for \$15. The flu shot hotline is 615-340-2100.

Frazier said students should make health a top priority and become informed when it comes to the swine flu, seasonal flu or just illnesses in general.

"I hope students are adhering to the instructions given by the health center," Frazier said. "If not, they are risking the health of themselves and others."

For further updates on health issues in Nashville, please visit: healthweb.nashville.gov.

PREVENTION TIPS:

- Stay home if you're sick
- Wash hands frequently
- Cover sneezes with a sleeve rather than hands
- Take extra precautions to stay healthy

Every campus residence center occupies freshman

Continued from page 2

students in on-campus housing; as a result, Wilson and Watson halls could not house all students. Now, every residence center, including the traditionally upperclassman apartment complexes, now houses freshman students.

"The freshman are everywhere," said sophomore chemistry major Deonte Mackins from Memphis.

Even though some students registered early, they still encountered other issues.

"I do not know why I did not have a housing assignment," said senior psychology major Cassie Martin from Chattanooga. "I completed everything that needed to be done last semester."

Traditionally, students received

an official email from Residence Life stating the place of residence, room number and roommate assignment.

The initial procedure ran smoothly until double booking and limited space came into play.

"My roommate and I were doubled booked," said sophomore biology major Crystal Armstrong from Birmingham. "We did not find out our room assignment had changed until two days before we moved in."

Carl Darnell, residence director at the Harriett Hodgkins Hale Hall, credits the university's firm belief in customer service to a speedy resolution.

"We aren't always right initially, but we are getting there swiftly," Darnell said.

OWT & ABOUT

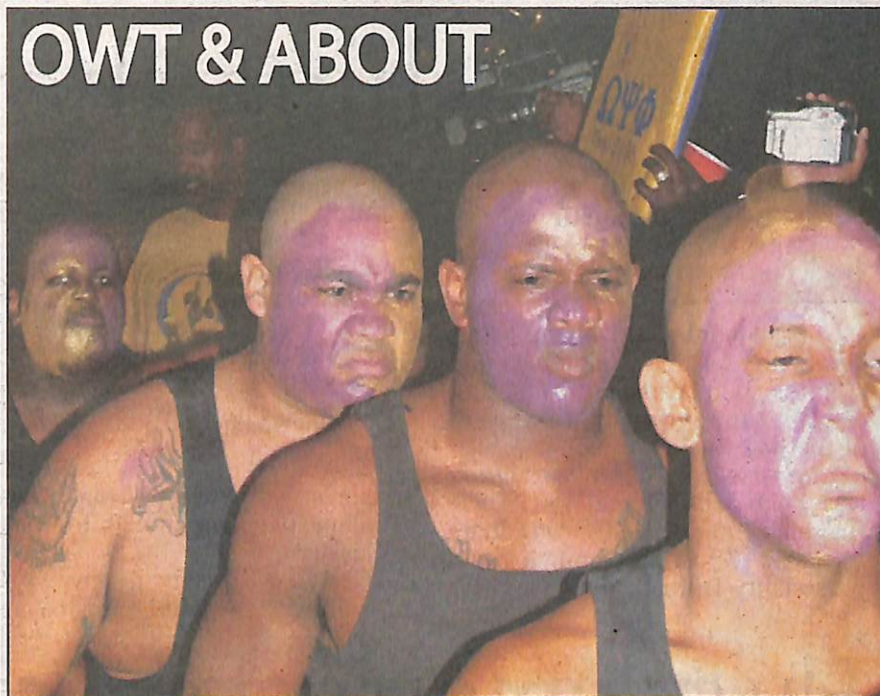


PHOTO BY MARSHALL A. LATIMORE/THE METER

The Rho Psi chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. presented their Spring 2009 initiates in a coming out show on Sept. 2. See more photos from the event at tsumeter.com.

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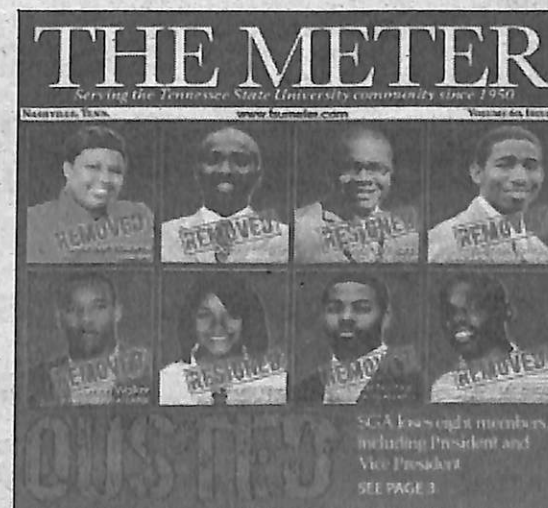
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Opinions

- Student views
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- Cartoonists



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What We Think

Hard times teach valuable lessons

Although new initiatives have taken place this year in the Financial Aid office, some students continue to be dissatisfied with the overall service.

This past week, countless students could be seen daily standing in long lines in Kean Hall, which acted as Financial Aid and Bursars.

Students had to sign in downstairs and patiently await upstairs for individual cases to be addressed.

The patience of students was definitely put to the test as many complained of

standing in line for hours, only to leave with more unanswered questions.

Even though attempts have been made, on the behalf of administrators, to simplify the Financial Aid process some students remain unhappy.

On one hand the current situation is a downside, seeing as the overall need of students is

not being met.

On the other, the alleged difficulties may be in fact preparing us for the future.

In life, nothing will ever come easy and attaining success in any endeavor will require hard work.

Wholistically, TSU prepares us for the tasks ahead.

While, on the surface, we become frustrated with waiting or dealing with poor customer

service, we must remember things will not be any easier in the "real world."

Dealing with bad attitudes, valuing punctuality, exercising perseverance and keeping proper records of important documents are all necessary lessons we must experience for post-graduate life.

We should embrace all that TSU has to offer, both good and bad, because what does not break us, makes us stronger.

We never know what crossroads lay ahead.

*In life,
nothing
will ever
come
easy.*



**Miji
Pearse**
CONTRIBUTING
COLUMNIST

GIRL TALK

A woman's reputation precedes her in every conversation, campaign, speech, exchange, affair, affiliation, alliance or kinship.

Reputation literally and completely defines who and what she is, where she is and how she conducts herself.

Ladies, so often we come to college thinking we have ascended beyond the familiar high school b.s.

I am here to notify the masses that at TSU, not much is different other than the new location and the

different faces.

Do not get me wrong. I have absolutely fallen in love with my university and I could not imagine my life without Big Blue.

However, when I arrived, I fell into the trap of dope boys and upperclassmen males. It was fun, adventurous and exciting.

I loved giving men the green light, and like the phrase suggests, I was a "girl that just wanted to have fun." It is easy and very tempting to become caught up in the materialistic crazes of TSU.

We must still remain strong and remember that someone is always watching. Our classmates are waiting for us to become something. Be true to yourself and keep your reputation positive.

Remembering back to my own years, there was no one around to

hand me this free advice. Soon after my freshman year I was viewed as a "man-izer" and a gold digger in some circles.

I was forced to wear those scarlet letters. When my sophomore year rolled around and I tried out for the Miss Black and Gold Scholarship, I was faced with major adversity and stigma.

I was almost not selected to compete in the pageant because of my image and reputation.

Ladies, be very mindful of the who, the what, the where and the how that defines you, preceding you as your reputation. I cannot stress the importance of this enough.

Whether girls are running for class queen or class president, it is important to be aware of that reputation factor and keep it as a direct reflection of one's character.

THE METER

The Measure of Student
Opinion and Sentiment

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Meter's mission is to accurately and responsibly report the "highlights and lowlights" of Tennessee State University and its community so that we may foster positive results while reflecting the university's multicultural student body.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The Meter invites submission by all members of the Tennessee State University community. Timelines and clarity are factors in selecting material for publication. Materials must adhere to the following guidelines:

a.) All contributions must be typed and sent by e-mail.

b.) Opinions and letters should not exceed 400 words.

c.) The Meter reserves the right to reject letters, articles or ads without explanation and to edit others as necessary.

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STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

FRESHMAN ELECTIONS

Sept. 6-13	Campaigning
Sept. 8	Freshmen Class Forum & Debate <i>FPCC Rm. 210, 6 p.m.</i>
Sept. 14	Avon Williams Campus Voting
Sept. 15	Main Campus Voting



20th Anniversary

TIGREVILLE

BY ORTERRIUS BURNETT



CLASSIFIED

MESSAGE FROM
STUDENT AFFAIRS:

ABS Notebooks will be distributed for FREE to students Sept. 21 – 24 on the Main Campus from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. the FPCC Information Desk and from 6-8:00 p.m. on the Avon Williams Campus each day.

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SMART
TECH
See page 10

BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY

Monday, September 7, 2009

Volume 60, Issue 3



UNITY WORKS

Students from colleges across the statewide united at the capitol last year to protest against the Tennessee's Board of Regents decision to remove the 12 hour tuition cap.

In previous years, students were able to take up to 18 hours and it would be included in tuition costs. However, because of the struggling economy, TBR decided to increase the cost of tuition in order to pay for rising state expenses.

Students decorated picket signs, marched, hosted and attended rallies that opposed the TBR's proposal. However, the cap was indeed removed.

The TBR's proposal insisted students pay the university per credit hour taken a semester. With a struggling economy and drastic increase in unemployment, students didn't to pay the increase.

After protests and meetings with TBR officials, the final decision remained and students were allowed to take up to 12 credit hours without being charged extra. If students wanted to take more than 12 hours, they would have to pay by the hour.

This is a great accomplishment for students, because although tuition was increased, it was not an immense increase. For out-of-state students, there was a \$35 fee assessed for every additional hour over 12 hours.

Meanwhile, the tuition increase was only \$10 for every hour over 12 hours.

However, when tuition increased, government aid and students' income did not. Some students were still forced to either drop out or take out loans in efforts to fund their education.

In all, the unity of TBR schools led to the amendment of the bill and showed that when we all come together for a common cause, change will come. •

Financial aid lacks service

By Shannon Cohen
BUSINESS &
TECHNOLOGY EDITOR

Students who experienced improvements in the overall revamping of the financial aid program, are still dissatisfied with the faculty as a whole.

Many students believe that the changes to the financial aid program have made the process quicker and less of a hassle.

However, they still feel the problem lies with the financial aid staff.

Students describe some Financial Aid officials as rude, insensitive and mean.

"(Financial aid counselors) are always in a rush to get you out of their face," said Dominique Hall a freshman speech communications major from Carson City, Nev. "Then when you tell them your problem they are rude and disrespectful for absolutely no reason at all."

When grants, scholarships and parental contributions are finalized, many students are forced to take out loans to pay their remaining balances.

Some students claim to not know all the federal aid they are eligible for and blame their misunderstanding to uninterested counselors who do not inform students about their financial aid status prior to problems.

"Last year, I had to max out my credit card to pay my tuition because of all the chaos, said Bethany McGee a sophomore psychology major from Pontiac, Mich. "(Counselors) never told me that I was eligible for a scholarship that would have covered everything."

Like McGee, many students express being tired of having to wait in lines for several hours, only to be greeted by "aggravated" financial aid staffers.

"I was one of the first few people in line on (August 31) and when I finally saw the counselor she had an attitude and kept telling me to check online," said Jasmon McDonald a sophomore English major from Chattanooga. "She barely even looked at me."

Michael A. Freeman, vice president for Student Affairs, said that often times the behavior

of financial aid counselors are a reflection of the students' attitudes.

"Sometimes students are disappointed with responses they get from counselors so they are called rude," said Freeman. "(Students) have to take responsibility for attitudes (they) bring to offices."

"The Financial Aid Office staff works extremely hard to assist students and do not deserve to be yelled at, cursed or bullied, then later called rude" he continued.

Students who have completed all paperwork on time are assisted first, compared to those who procrastinate with required materials.

Freeman said most students should not have to experience extensive lines and insensitive counselors, because most of last year's problems have been fixed.

"The financial aid department has made many attempts to inform students on their financial aid status," Freeman said. "(They) should simply check their 'mytsu' accounts." •

Tennessee unemployment rates decrease

Tennessee's unemployment rate dropped for the month of August from 10.8 to 10.7 percent.

According to the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development, 78 out of 95 counties saw a substantial decrease in the unemployment rate.

Although the Nashville and Murfreesboro metro areas did not see an immense decrease, its counties dropped from 10 percent to 9.6 percent.

Davidson County was the eighth lowest percentage rate at 9.2 percent in the state.

The county with the biggest decrease in rates was Perry County dropping from 22.1 percent to 19.3 percent.

A stimulus program funded by the government was the reason for the decrease as it provided 343 new jobs.

State officials say, the slight decrease is because job seekers are frustrated with the job search and are giving up.

Last arcade standing

Nashville is now down to its last video game arcade as a result of a substantial decrease in

revenue.

Hickory Hollow's Game Galaxy, is the last traditional video arcade still standing in the city, post-recession.

The arcade includes more than 100 video games and pin ball machines.

According to the American Amusement Machine Association, revenue from video arcades has drastically declined from \$4.4 billion in 1982 to \$902 million in 2007.

A similar arcade is located at Dave and Buster's restaurant, in Opry Mills Mall. •



ILLUSTRATION BY MARSHALL A. LATIMORE

Smart phones, like the Apple iPhone 3G, Palm Pre, Samsung Omnia and Google G1, all combine sleek design, modern technology and functionality.

SMART IS THE NEW CELL PHONE

By Shannon Cohen

BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY EDITOR

Carrying a cell phone and personal digital assistant (PDA) is no longer necessary. Consumers can now lighten their load by buying a "smart phone."

For students who feel the need to be able to listen to music, surf the Web, send/receive e-mails, picture/text message and talk can all be done with one device.

A smart phone is the combination of a PDA and cell phone. These devices are practically handheld computers with a phone capability.

Brittney Thompson, a freshman speech communications and theatre major from Atlanta has followed the trend and purchased a smart phone.

Although being able to utilize all these applications from one device may be convenient; convenience comes with a price. The suggested retail price for these phones average at about \$300.

Dsiris Hinton, a freshman mechanical engineering major from Spartanburg, S.C. said, "I bought my Palm Pre for \$89.99, it was a buy one get one half off sale, originally it was 199.99."

In addition to the expensive phone prices, smart phones generally come with a two-year

contract.

To avoid having to constantly renew contracts, it may be in the consumers' best interest to choose a phone they would likely keep for awhile.

Ciera Starkey, a freshman, biology major from Detroit said, "I bought my phone (from) Verizon and it only cost me \$50.00, but I had to sign a two year contract."

However, some companies allow customers to buy new phones during their contract.

Chris Garner, a sophomore speech communications and theatre major from Nashville said, "I only paid \$50.00 for my Envoy 2, and I didn't have to sign a new contract, because I already had one."

For those who prefer not to constantly have to renew their contract, making a list of features needed and comparing phones could possibly eliminate a lot of the hassle.

"I have the Samsung Eternity, and I bought it so I could use the touch screen," said Victoria Jackson, director of Eppse Hall. "It was actually a waste of money, because I don't like using the e-mail, (etc) and I had to sign a two year contract."

Following is information about THE METER's top five choices for smart phones:

Apple iPhone 3GS 16GB \$199.00

Just when consumers thought the Apple craze was over; Apple surprised them once again with the sleek, candy bar shaped iPhone 3GS.

This lightweight phone provides up to 12 hours of talk time, nine hours of Wi-Fi internet use, video camera, voice control, compass, 10 hours of video playback and hundreds of downloadable applications.

Blackberry Curve 8900 \$149.99

The Blackberry series has become increasingly popular among consumers worldwide.

Students are sporting the compact, four-inch device.

The lightweight device comes with a built in camera, Wi-Fi, GPS navigation, media player, organizer, browser and much more.

It also contains five and half hours of talk time, 15 days of standby time and a 35 key QWERTY keyboard.

Google G1 (\$149.99)

Google's very own G1, is for the consumer who wants the iPhone experience for a reasonable price.

The device contains a large touch screen, full sized QWERTY board, music player, 3.2 MP

camera, 3G Network, Wi-Fi access and Bluetooth connectivity.

It also has the ability to download thousands of applications. However, the phone is only available with T-mobile.

Palm Pre \$199.99

The new, innovative Palm Pre is ideal for students who wish to utilize several applications simultaneously.

The Palm Pre contains layered calendars and linked contacts, activity cards, intuitive notifications, combined messaging, universal search, email, wi-fi and GPS, Palm services and many downloadable applications.

Samsung Omnia (\$189.99)

The excessively thin Samsung Omnia is a full touch screen, candy bar phone that comes equipped with Windows Mobile 6.1 Professional, TouchWiz technology, high-speed connectivity, full HTML web browsing, 5MP autofocus camera, video and audio support and GPS navigation.

While all these phones contain various features and downloadable applications, consumers should focus less on the popularity of the device and more on the functionality they prefer.



REALITY TV
ROUND-UP
See page 12

THE METER ARTS CULTURE

Monday, September 7, 2009

Volume 60 Issue 3



**Nakeva
Williams**
ARTS &
CULTURE EDITOR

KEEPING IT REAL

STOP HATING ON TRANSGENDERS

In light of recent reality television shows, the increase of featured transgender actors has been leading to wider exposure.

Some argue that transgender and transsexual people are not the same as lesbians, gays and bisexuals.

America has been known to shun every "abnormal" act, thought and behavior. However, I guess either there are bigger issues or this nation is finally realizing that differences we all possess are what adds spice to this country and its legacy.

Reality shows have long relied on controversial content to draw viewers.

Isis King, an unexpected homeless New Yorker was invited to join the cast of *America's Next Top Model* after she was recognized in the background of a photo.

King can be considered a pioneer in the latest influx of the transgender representations on television.

The Real World: Brooklyn was the most open show with their cast member Katelynn. Aside from the normal control controversy with emotions and feelings, Katelynn was very open about her process for completing her gender transformation.

America's Best Dance Crew now features an all gay crew; one of the members is a transgender women.

Get serious, nothing should surprise us. This stuff is old news.

Yes, religious values come into play but who has the right to condemn someone when no sin is greater than the other?

We all have skeletons in our closets, and as a saying goes to "sweep around your own front door."

'Ready' melts hearts

Ready
Trey Songz
Grade: A

After teasing fans for months during the summer with free music, via Twitter, the new R&B mixtape king released his third studio album *Ready* on Aug. 31.

Trey Songz prepared fans for the launch of the album with various mixtape materials including the release of lead single *I Need a Girl*, produced by duo Stargate.

The 14-track LP features the stellar production and penmanship of R&B veterans Bryan-Michael Cox, Sean Garrett, Stargate and Johna Austin.

The bedroom track *Neighbors Know My Name*, written by Songz and longtime mentor Troy Taylor, is reminiscent of an R. Kelly track from his first album *12 Play*, with its raunchy metaphors to describe Songz's bedroom skills.

The Prince-esque ballad, *Yo Side of the Bed*, reveals a softer, more vulnerable side of Songz.

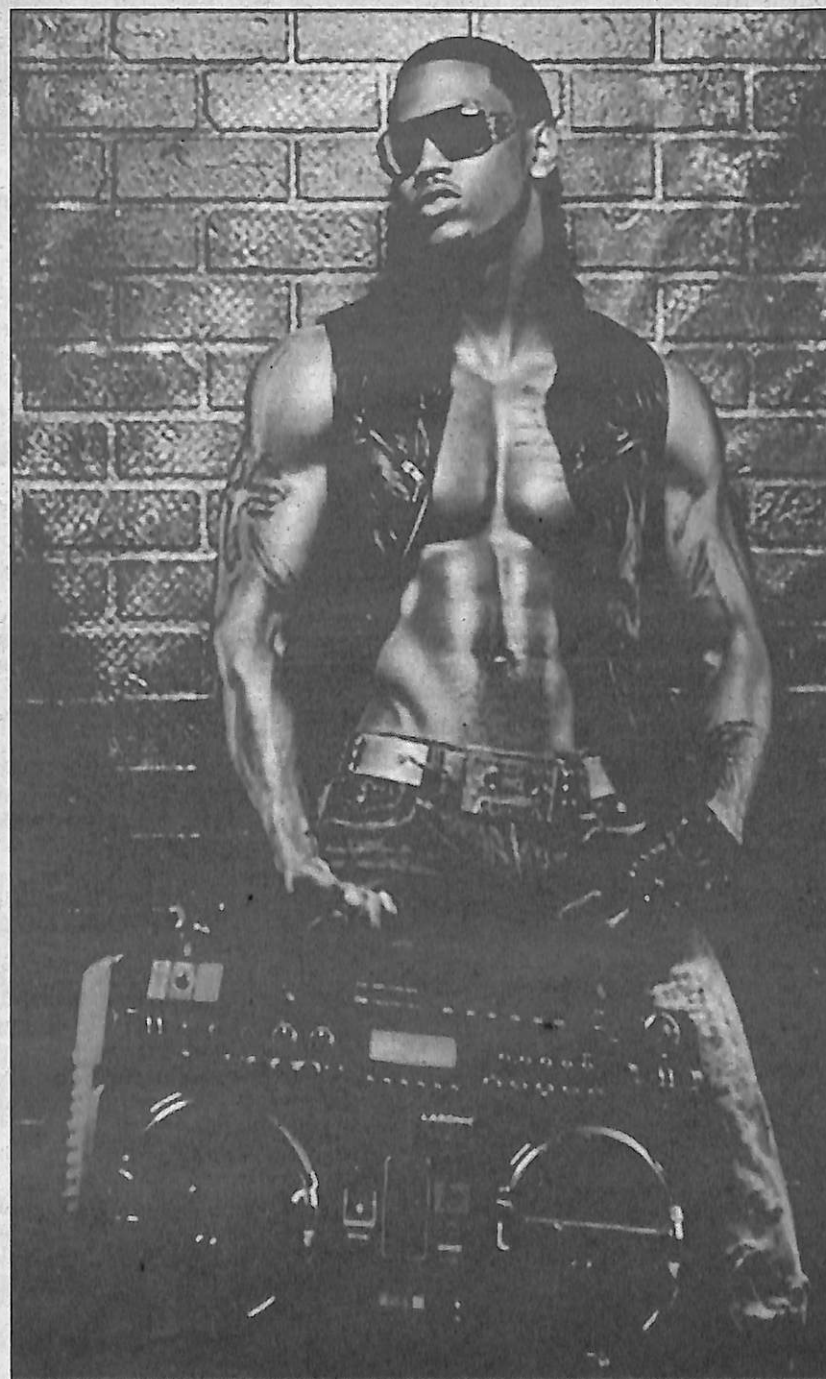
Hit artists Drake, Gucci Mane and Soulja Boy also give the album a boost with radio favorite features *Successful*, mellow tune *I Invented Sex* and the upbeat *LOL :-)*, which references popular social networks.

There is a noticeable difference in Songz' vocal performance from previous albums. Although he has a pleasant falsetto, he does not overuse it.

Progress and maturation are also present on the LP compared to Songz's sophomore effort, *Trey Day*.

Bottom Line: Each song on *Ready* fits within the synonymous theme and strong delivery is evident.

Jaida McKie



TV shows offer great variety, antics

By Jaida McKie
& Nakeva Williams
ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR &
STAFF REPORTER

The Real Housewives of Atlanta provides an up close and personal view.

The show follows the lives of women from Atlanta's elite circle including NFL wives, single mothers and entrepreneurs.

The show focuses on the women balancing careers, motherhood and keeping up with the Atlanta scene. The show airs on Bravo TV.

America's Best Dance Crew produced by American Idol judge Randy Jackson, allows dance crews from all over the country to audition for spots on the show; then, they showcase their talents in a variety of themed challenges to win a grand prize.

P. Diddy's Starmaker is a



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRAVOTV.COM

The Real Housewives of Atlanta heats up television screens every week.

American Idol-like show Sean "P. Diddy" Combs has created with MTV. Combs's previous shows include three installments of *Making the Band*, on which he formed Da Band, Danity Kane and DAY26.

P. Diddy has now started on a brand new show with the network

in hopes of finding the next superstar.

Making His Band is another P.Diddy production, but this time the search is a little more personal.

Sean Combs has once again collaborated with his judge panel to find his own band for his *Last*

Train to Paris tour.

Tiny & Toya focuses on the ex-wife of rapper Lil Wayne and current wife of Tip "T.I." Harris trying to pave their own way without the much expected "baby mama drama."

Toya battles with the fight to become fully free of her past relationship with Lil Wayne and repair the broken links of her family. Tiny struggles with the decision of following her husbands wishes by not working or following her dreams of breaking back into the music business.

The T.O. (Terrell Owens) Show follows the life of NFL wide receiver for the Dallas Cowboy's Terrell Owens during the off season.

Along with Owens' personality, the show is brought to life with the help of his friends and publicists, Monique Jackson and Kita Williams.

Horror film installments fail to impress fans

Halloween 2
Dimension Films'
Grade: C

Rob Zombie's *Halloween 2* - not to be confused with John Carpenter's 1981 film - begins where its predecessor left off.

After Laurie Strode (Scout Taylor-Compton) survived the carnage caused by Michael Myers, she is sent to the hospital to recover.

Myers is presumed dead, but the cops soon discover that the truck transferring Myers never reached its destination, while his body mysteriously vanishes.

A year later, as the days loom closer to Halloween, the anniversary of the massacre, Myers slowly returns to Haddonfield to find Laurie again.

It is hard to determine if Rob Zombie was the best or worst director for the job. To his credit, the *Halloween* remake was not bad, and *The Devil's Rejects* makes him a credible force with horror films.

Zombie also exhibits Myers's

ruthlessness to maximum effect.

Viewers can feel every hungry stab, punch or stomp Myers dishes out to his victims. Zombie makes sure Myers's murderous thirst lingers long after the gory executions.

Unfortunately, the compliments end there. Surrounding the visceral slayings are absurd explanations behind the symbolic source of Myers' fury.

Zombie's psychological profiling of Myers feels distracting and misplaced.

That would be forgivable if the rest of *Halloween 2* soared, but ironically enough, Zombie marginalized it by using every horror movie cliché in the book.

Halloween 2's lack of general suspense, mediocre acting and overall predictability does it no favors.

Bottom line: For slasher film junkies who only crave on-screen bloodshed, *Halloween 2* will fit the bill, but don't expect anything revolutionary or memorable.

Darius Williamson

The Final Destination
Warner Bros. Pictures
Grade: D

The fourth installment of the *Final Destination* series indeed needs to adhere to its title.

Directed by David R. Ellis, *The Final Destination* eliminated the feeling of suspense or shock because of his choice to linger and give the audience time to predict what was about to happen.

Following the trend set by previous *Final Destination* movies, the film starts with a basic premonition from Nick O'Bannon (Bobby Campo) about the deaths of his friends at a NASCAR race they are attending.

O'Bannon temporarily save his friends lives by, you guessed it, freaking out and convincing them to leave only minutes before his dream becomes reality.

As usual, saving their lives was in vain because one by one, they

are killed by death's unavoidable grip in the original order in which they were supposed to die. The rest of the film is a bunch of useless planning to cheat and avoid death.

The *Final Destination* series is best known for eliminating the "slasher" method and uses death itself as the culprit.

If the movie goer is seeking true bloodshed—save your money. The special effects looked cheap, if not unbelievable.

The creative team would have been expected to go above what *Final Destination* fans could ever imagine, but they fail to deliver.

After watching this, the teasers seemed more thrilling than the actual movie, though the movie does manager to deliver a few unintentional laughs.

Bottom line: *The Final Destination* is just another senseless "suspense" film that is worth the wait for the redbox release.

Nakeva Williams

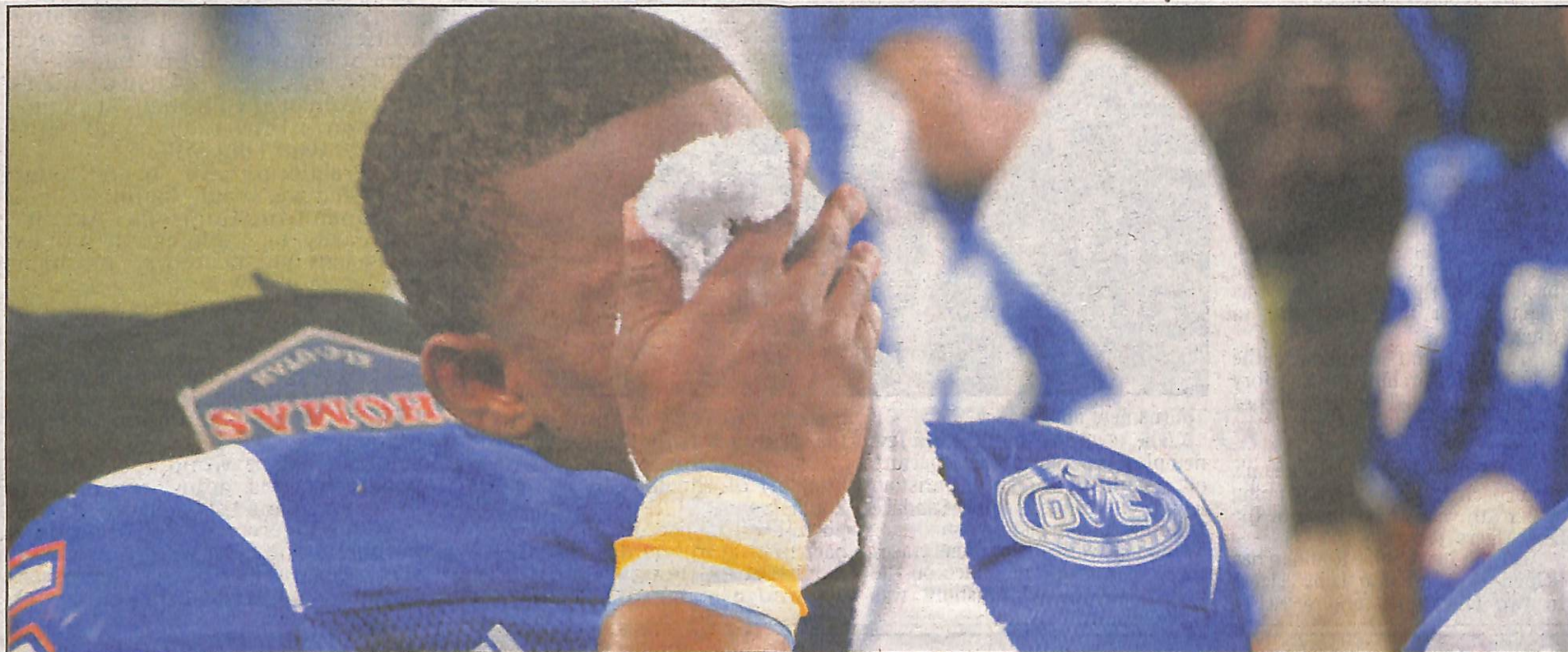


PHOTO BY ITORO UMONTUEN/THE METER

Tigers' quarterback Dominic Grooms covers his face in pain as TSU loses 24-7 to the Alabama A&M University Bulldogs on Sept. 5 at LP Field.

TIGERS SUFFER PAINFUL LOSS

By Patrick Comer
SENIOR STAFF REPORTER

The Tigers came up short in the season opener Sept. 5 against Alabama A&M University, with a 24-7 loss to the Bulldogs.

Tigers entered the game with many questions on the offensive end.

Then, the Tigers faced defensive issues once the Bulldogs posted more than 400 total net yards—287 of which were posted in the first half of the game.

Throughout the game, TSU's defense could not find its way off the field amongst a myriad of missed tackles and yellow laundry.

"I expected us to perform better than we did," said Tigers Head coach James Webster about the game. "(But) we cannot have

penalties and expect to win."

The Tigers' apparent loss of firepower from last year's team was evident as the Tiger offense faltered all night under both players Webster used at the quarterback position.

The Tigers started Dominic Grooms, a junior from Tampa, Fla. however, the quarterback only played in the first couple of series before he was sidelined with an injury.

"With us losing our quarterback that sets us back even further," Webster said.

After Grooms' injury, Jeremy Perry then had his turn to play quarterback.

The transfer redshirt junior from Memphis played his first college game Saturday but did not fair too well.

"Well you know the one thing we always say is to protect the football and he had a pair of interceptions," Webster said. "We'll go back to the drawing board and work on those things and hopefully get better."

In the beginning, the Tigers gave the Bulldogs an early 14-0 lead.

On the Bulldogs' next drive, the Tigers cut the lead in half as Eugene Clifford, a junior from Cincinnati, picked up a fumble forced by Marcus Snow.

Clifford, a redshirt sophomore from Homestead, Fla., returned the fumble 78 yards for a score.

For the Tigers, it was the longest fumble return in team history.

However, without the big-play capability that Javarris Williams, Chris Johnson, JaJuan Spillman and Antonio Heffner brought Big

Blue last season, the Tigers' offense failed to find the end zone.

"I thought we would run the ball better," Webster said. "When you have a new offense that you are putting together, you know it takes time to get the passing game to gel together."

Perry's words seem to echo the same feelings as those of Webster.

"We got a lot of new guys and new faces," said Perry. "We didn't get enough time together with the situation at quarterback but we will get better."

One certainly would hope so that would be the case as next week the Tigers head to Memphis to face the Jackson State University Tigers in the Southern Heritage Classic.

tsumeter.com

Lady Tigers lose road season opener

By Jessica Moseley &
Brooke Haynes
SPORTS EDITOR &
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

The Lady Tigers volleyball squad dropped their first game of the season against Southern Mississippi on Friday Aug 28 at the Samford University Tournament in Birmingham.

By the end of the weekend, the Lady Tigers lost two of the three games they played and was preparing for their next trip to Athens, Ga.

This trip too would have the Lady Tigers searching for a victory as they compiled an 0-3 record leaving them 1-5 to start the season.

For Kathy Roulhac, the team's head coach, it marks the beginning of her 5th year at the helm of the Lady Tigers' program.

During her tenure Roulhac has helped to guide the Lady Tigers to two OVC titles and a NCAA



Tournament appearance.

The team's roster added a few new players to replace the departure of Heather Sanders, Christian Lowe, Taryn Baker and Candace Saleaumua from last season.

Along with these new faces there is also one new face on the bench as Chuck Amshoff was

brought in over the summer to fill the vacancy left by Eysha Amber.

"I will miss our assistant, (Ambler) of the last five seasons," Roulhac said. "I'm happy about the potential for the program to get back to championship status."

"I feel as though Chuck is the guy who will help us get back on

track," she continued.

Amshoff arrives to TSU after a brief but successful head coach stint at Lindsey Wilson College.

He has also coached men's and women's volleyball at James Madison University and the University of Louisville.

"Practices have been tough but effective," said Naomi Wells, a freshman from Huntsville, Ala. "We can easily be undefeated, but we can easily get beaten so its up in the air right now."

All of the practices will hopefully pay off for the girls as they prepares another season.

"I have seen a lot of progression from these girls," said Latasha Kinnie the sophomore team manager.

It's just a wonder if all the progression is going to translate into more wins this season.

The Tigers will see their first home action Sept. 8, against the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga in Kean Hall at 6 p.m. •

TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY 2009 Pep Rally Schedule

Wednesday, Sept. 9	Amphitheater (All state & 92Q)	6-8 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 16	Amphitheater	12 noon
Wednesday, Sept. 23	Amphitheater	12 noon
Friday, Oct. 2	Amphitheater	12 noon
Friday, Oct. 16	Amphitheater	12 noon
Friday, Nov. 6	Hale Stadium (Homecoming)	12noon

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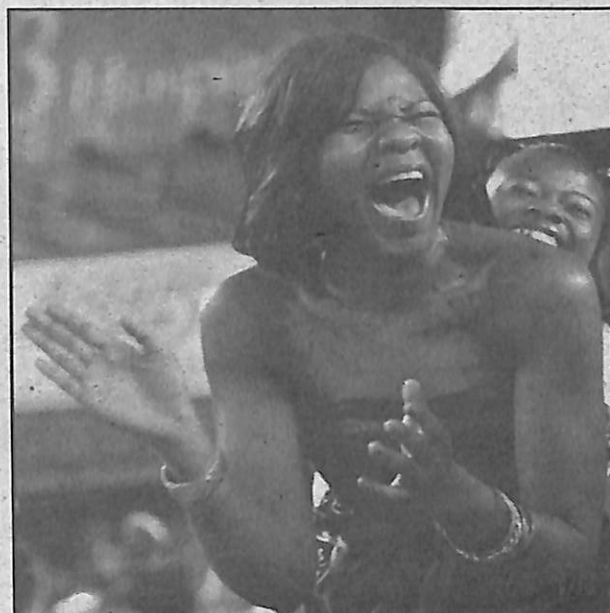
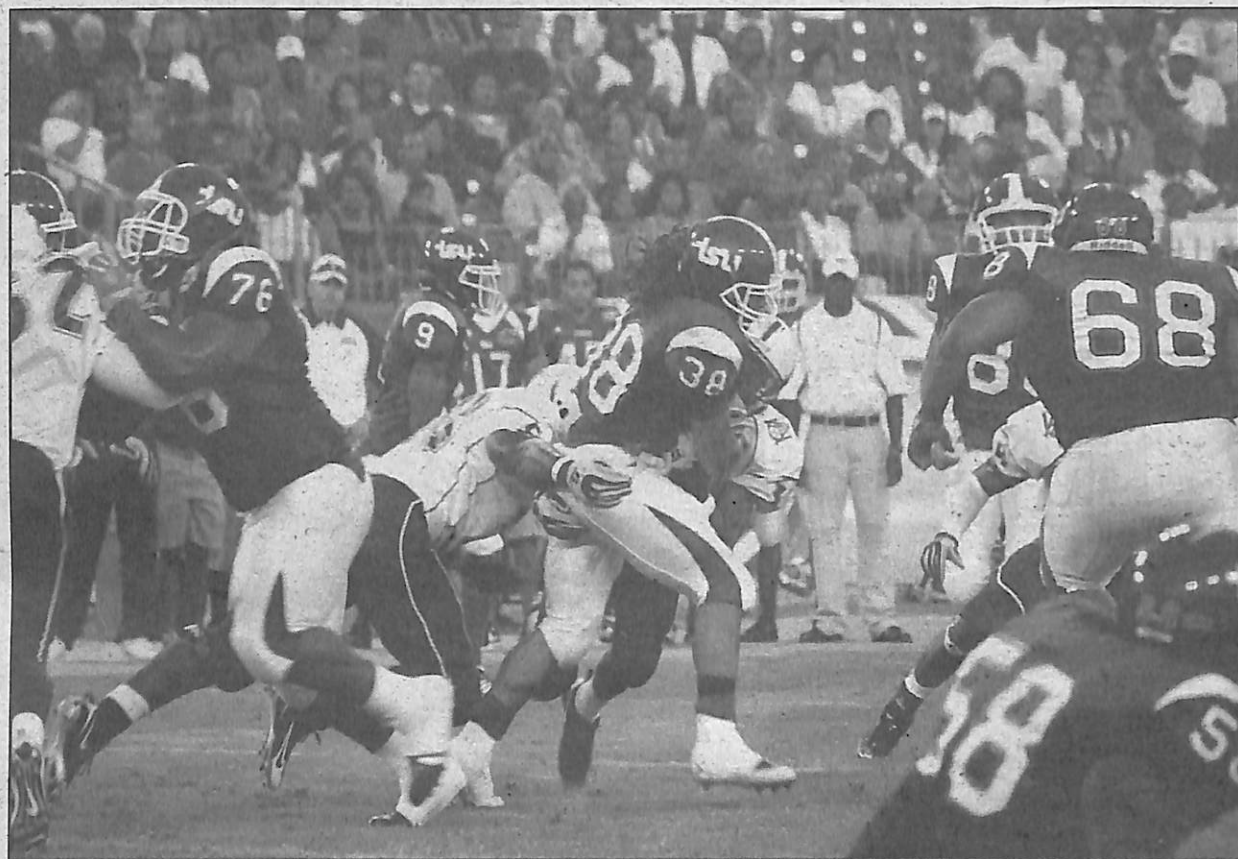
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have own transportation &
good communication skills.

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- Must have valid driver's license, be able to drive a large van.

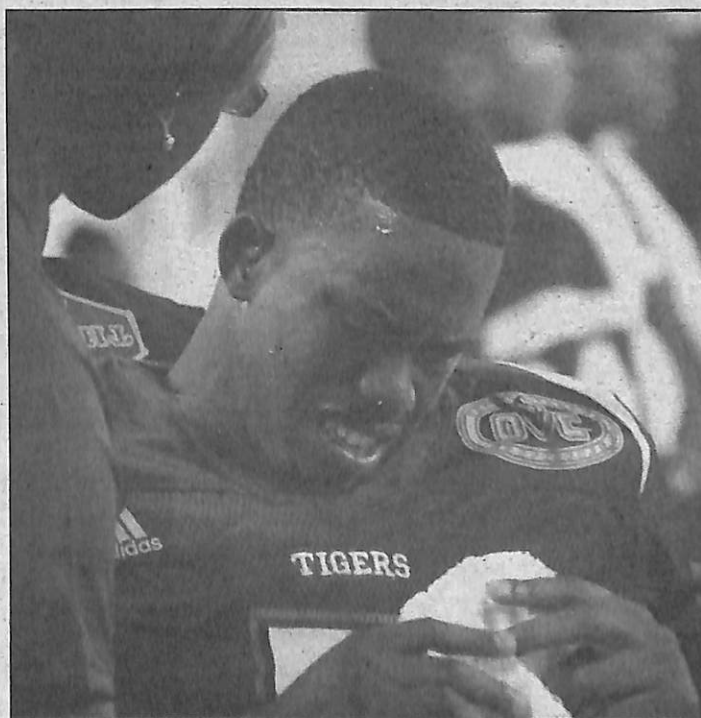
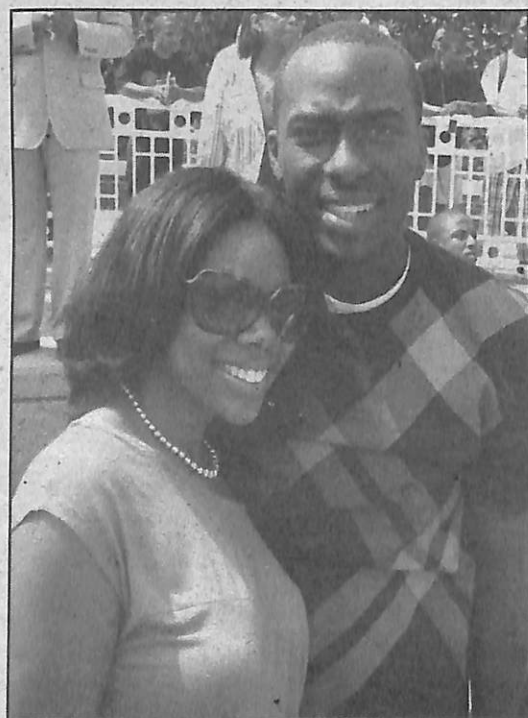
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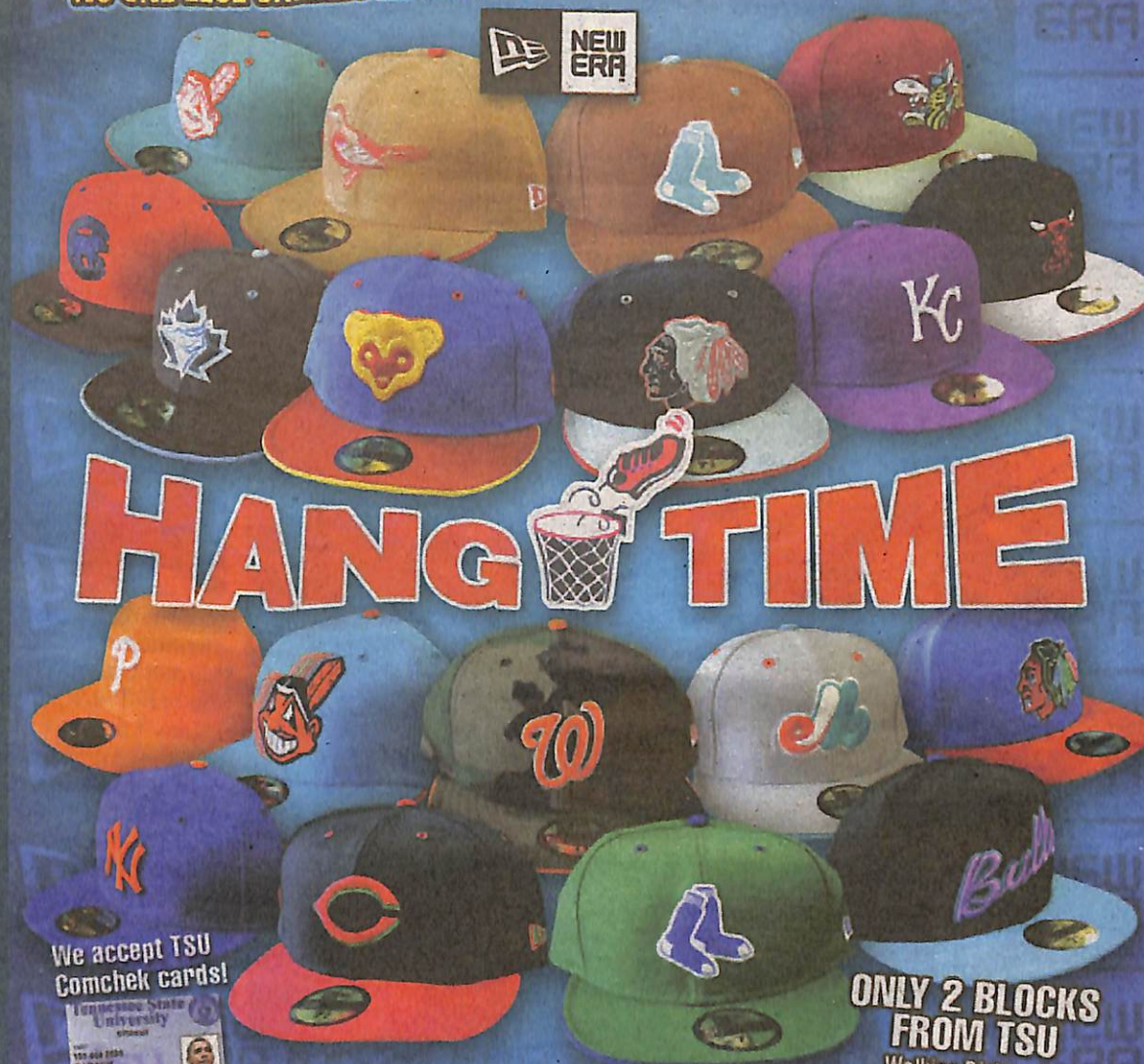
photos by Itoro Umontuen & Marshall A. Latimore



(counterclockwise from above): TSU graduate student Shasta Wilson enjoys the John Merritt Classic; Tiger Preston Brown carries the ball; Patrick Walker-Reese and Ceceila Friday take part in the Sept. 4 pep rally on campus; Tiger Dominic Grooms winces in pain from an injury during the game; The Aristocrat of Bands provides tunes at the JMC Pep Rally.



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